

friends, The subject of my speech is, "What I Can Do For My Country".

First of all I can be a good citizen. I can honor and respect the flag of the United States in which I live. I can be proud of our president and his ten cabinet members.

When I am ready to vote I should know and understand the rules of voting. I should think of the privilege I have of being able to cast a free and secret ballot.

In being a good citizen I should allow each person to speak his own opinion.

I can give help to the ill and friendless.

I must help make safety rules for my community and endeavor to carry them out.

Second, I should get the best education possible by learning the principles of my classroom.

I can learn to enjoy the company of others.

I must do my best to understand the governmental problems of my nation.

I can read and listen to the news and current events of my state and nation.

I can take an active part in political affairs and learn all I can about them.

I must learn all I can about the science and progressiveness of other nations as well as my own.

I must be able to contribute to the defense effort.

Third, I must keep myself physically fit by eating the right kinds of food, getting the right amount of sleep and correct exercise, and avoiding the use of those things harmful to me.

I must train myself so as to make a real contribution to the defense of my country in the fields of science and education.

In conclusion, I can be a good citizen, get the best education possible and keep myself physically fit.

Thank you.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. ROBERT E. CASEY, JR.

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert E. Casey, Jr., the Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Dallas Field Office. Mr. Casey is retiring from the FBI on April 30, 2012.

Upon graduation from Indiana State University, Mr. Casey joined the Houston Police Department in 1981. During his tenure, he served as a patrol officer and an investigator on the organized crime squad and earned the prestigious "Police Officer of the Year" Award in 1983. In September 1986, he joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a Special Agent in the Phoenix Field Office and began working on organized crime and drug investigations. Throughout his tenure with the FBI, Mr. Casey served in a variety of offices including Washington, D.C., Chicago, Miami, and Dallas. Due to his exemplary service, he was promoted to the ranks of Senior Executive Service and was the recipient of the prestigious 2006 Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Mr. Casey. He is a principled man with a keen sense of civic duty. He has dedicated his life to public service and proven to be a great leader and a true patriot. Our Nation is a better and safer place because of individuals like him.

As he retires from the FBI, I know Mr. Casey will be delighted to spend more time

with his wife, Leslie, and their two children, Gayle and Drew, who have faithfully supported him throughout his career. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Casey on twenty-six years of dedicated service to the FBI and this great Nation. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors. May God bless him and his family.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE CENTER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Children's Service Center, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on April 11, 2012. The Children's Service Center has been serving families of the Wyoming Valley in Northeastern Pennsylvania since it was incorporated on April 11, 1862, to create a sanctuary in order to provide shelter, food, and instruction to a number of underprivileged children in the Wyoming Valley.

The Children's Service Center was originally called The Home for Friendless Children. As its programs grew and developed, it became a nationally renowned shelter and educational center for infants and children. By 1929, the Home for Friendless Children had become the Children's Home. As time went on, it appeared the children needed more than a shelter—they needed a home. Two cottages were built, the Martha Bennet Home and the Children's Home, and they became the first two open psychiatric residential settings for children in North America. During this time, the Martha Bennet Estate and Children's Home Foundation requested that a newly formed organization called the Children's Service Center become established in order to manage the residential program. The creation of the Children's Service Center occurred in 1938.

As a mental health care system, the Children's Service Center is deeply committed to the wellness of young people in our community. Their services are designed to meet the individual needs of children, adolescents, and their families. Children's Service Center assessment, crisis, and referral services are working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to help these children lead a better lifestyle.

Mr. Speaker, today, Children's Service Center stands as ray of hope for young people in the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania. I commend this agency for its 150 years of dedicated service to our children, to community, and to country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF TAMARA C. CANSLER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tamara C. Cansler on the occasion of being honored with the Sixth Annual Rebecca Lukens Award by The Greystone Society. As an outstanding candidate for this recognition, Tamara was chosen for this honor as she has demonstrated the same love of com-

munity as the award's namesake, Rebecca Lukens.

Tammy began her career as a high school and elementary school teacher in South Carolina, but moved with husband, Dale, to Pennsylvania where she took positions with Lukens Steel and Merck Pharmaceuticals. Employed by Merck from the mid 1970s to 1985, Tammy served as the first female production supervisor in the company's history. She then started her own development company, Cansler Investment Group, and focused on creating clean and safe living environments for underprivileged adults in the City of Coatesville.

Over the years, Tammy's efforts have resulted in the creation of successful complexes such as Coatesville's North Second Avenue Redevelopment Project, Penn's Crossing Townhomes, and the Brandywine Health Center. Such projects are examples of entire communities established for the benefit of economically-challenged adults, helping to give these folks more secure, more attractive places to live. Philabundance and others donate food to these complexes, and quality used clothing from Freedom Village Senior Living Community is sold to the residents for a very nominal fee.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of contributions to the community and litany of outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Tamara C. Cansler on the occasion of her being honored with The Greystone Society's Rebecca Lukens Award.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP J. DREW SHEARD ON THE CELEBRATION OF HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Pastor of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ of Detroit, for his exceptional leadership in the great State of Michigan.

A Detroit native and Wayne State University graduate, Bishop Sheard was called to the Ministry under the guidance of his father, Bishop John H. Sheard.

He has worked diligently and dutifully in several positions in the Church on both the local and national level, including serving as choir director, and chairman of local and State youth departments.

In addition to his Church Of God In Christ ministry, Bishop Sheard has served as Executive Director of the Michigan Chapter of the SCLC, and a Board Member of the Michigan Anti-Apartheid Council.

He currently leads Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ, one of the largest churches in the Church of God in Christ denomination.

Exhibiting a genuine concern for our community's children and young adults, Bishop Sheard has initiated the Greater Emmanuel TV Ministry, annual Youth and Women Conferences, the Greater Emmanuel Men's Society (GEMS), as well as annual programs such as "Sanctified Men in Black" and "Holy Women in Red."

In December of 2002, Bishop Sheard received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by the St. Thomas Christian College. He is married to Grammy Award-winning gospel artist Karen Clark-Sheard and they have two children, Kierra Valencia and J. Drew, II.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting and congratulating Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Pastor of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God In Christ, on the celebration of his outstanding leadership in the great State of Michigan.

HONORING BRANT MEREDITH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Brant Meredith is a sophomore at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

Our government is what represents each citizen of the United States. It is important to be politically active because we all have a voice in the path that our country takes. It is necessary to express your governmental opinion so that the best choices for the majority may be made. Because our government represents us, it should play a major role in our lives. Our representatives voice our opinion so it is important that we elect them and advocate who we think will do the best job so they will in return play an active duty in our own lives.

The government of the United States should regularly exercise its powers. The people elected their representatives to represent them in the government. Therefore, they should represent the people by enacting decisions that would satisfy who they are representing. In order to please the masses our government should play an active role by satisfying the popular goals. The needs of the public are very numerous. In order to meet all of them, it is necessary for our government to play an active part in our lives. If they do not play a crucial part then many needs will not be met.

As an American it is very important to be involved in the political process. It is necessary to vote for an official that will best meet your needs. If you are not involved with elections then officials who will not meet your needs could come to office. If the majority of our country does not vote a politician who should not be in office could come to it because the vote would be lopsided due to political inactivity. By not being politically active, your needs will not be met. That is why everyone needs to be involved in the political process.

One of the most memorable events that has greatly impacted our history were the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001.

This marked the beginning of the war on terrorism. We also began to enter a recession. These attacks marked the beginning of hard economic times. America has encountered many problems and potential threats since 9/11. This one day was the most Significant event in the 21st century.

In conclusion, we are represented in our government by people who represent us and make decisions for us. It is important for us to be involved with this political process so we can choose pleaders who will do a good job representing us and getting through hard times.

RECOGNITION OF WILLETT THOMAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ms. Thomas. A native of Macon, Georgia, Ms. Thomas has enjoyed nearly a century of good health with the love of her family and her deep faith in God. We celebrate your 100th birthday.

Ms. Thomas was born Willett Evelyn Smith on March 19, 1912, in Macon, Georgia. She is the oldest of three daughters born to her mother. During the early years of her life, Ms. Thomas grew up in Macon, Georgia in the household of her grandparents, Lucinda Jackson (Mamma Lucinda) and Papa Dudda. Ms. Thomas has said, "Her family was very poor people, but she lived a rich and privileged life surrounded by lots of love."

Ms. Thomas completed her elementary education at Rutland Station School, a public school with grades one through seven. She attended high school at Hudson High located in the city limits of Macon, Georgia, but she had to walk a long distance to reach the bus line, where she then took a bus through the city to the school. She was motivated by her cousin Mary Washington, who was also determined to get an education. They, along with a few others, weathered many a stormy days in triumph of a better life.

Ms. Thomas moved to New York where she would meet and marry the late Nelson Brown. They had one son, Thomas Brown, but the marriage would later fall apart. Ms. Thomas continued to attend Antioch Baptist Church and served at Brooklyn Hospital until she met and fell in love with Army officer, Leroy Thomas.

Ms. Thomas struggled with her husband's post war syndromes but they weathered the storm and raised her son together. When her son took ill becoming disabled in 1976, she and her husband needed to share sacrifice. For several years, she continued to work her night shift while her husband worked during the day. This worked out great for them because one of them was at home at all times to be of assistance to their son.

Ms. Thomas took advantage of new opportunities and landed a position as a Nurses Aide at Brooklyn Hospital. She was a devoted, prompt and competent worker until her reluctant retirement after 60 years of service in 1996.

As her son's health continued to decline, Ms. Thomas turned to worship and began attending New Faith Community Baptist Church every Sunday. Over time his health improved

and together they attended fundraising events and became very active at the church. On December 29, 2005, her son passed quietly in his sleep.

Today, Ms. Thomas remains in good spirits enjoying every moment of every day. She enjoys going out for a ride, taking in the sights of the city and various cultural events.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Ms. Willett Thomas on her 100th birthday. She continues to live a life full of joy and is a model citizen to us all.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I am caught between a rock and a hard place on this bill. I spoke and voted against the health care bill that is most frequently referred to as "ObamaCare."

I am strongly opposed to this Independent Payment Advisory Board, which many see as being a major step towards rationing of medical care.

I strongly favor protecting access to healthcare which is the title of H.R. 5.

However, legislators have been talking about \$250,000 caps probably since the late 1970s, if not earlier.

I can assure you that \$250,000 in the 70s is far more than \$250,000 today.

Secondly, it does not seem fair to me to tell all of my constituents—or at least more than 99 percent—that they can be sued for everything they have, but we are going to limit suits against this one small, privileged segment of our society.

I have great admiration and respect for physicians, but I also believe they should not be placed on a pedestal way above everyone else.

Third, every trial judge sits as a 13th juror and can set aside or reduce a ridiculous or unjust judgment. If the trial judge does not act, then there are courts of appeal. There are safeguards throughout the system, and most really excessive judgments have been reversed in some way by a trial court or at a higher level.

Fourth, USA Today published a box 4 or 5 years ago which showed that for the then most recent five-year period, medical malpractice judgments had gone up only 1.8 percent while medical malpractice premiums had gone up 131 percent.

A few big insurance companies have given the public a very false impression of what is really happening in the courts so that they can impose very exorbitant rate increases.

Last, some members, including me, believe that this should be handled by the states under our Constitution and that this malpractice part of the bill goes against the spirit and intent of our tenth amendment.